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5 wherein said quantity, said amount, and said association provide said water- based
6 drilling fluid effective rheology and fluid loss control properties
7 comprising low shear rate viscosity; and
8 a concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said
9 surfactant being effective to emulsify said water emulsifiable material and
10 to produce emulsion droplets having an average diameter of about 30
11 microns or less.

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1 272. (Amended) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:
2 an aqueous base fluid;
3 at least about 2 lb./bbl. water soluble polymer; and,
4 at least about 0.2 lb./bbl. of a surfactant in association with said water soluble
5 polymer;
6 wherein said water soluble polymer, said surfactant, and said association provide
7 said water- based drilling fluid with effective rheology and fluid loss
8 control properties comprising low shear rate viscosity.

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1 329. (Amended) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:
2 an aqueous base fluid;
3 about 7.5 lb./bbl. water soluble polymer; and,
4 about 2 lb./bbl. of a surfactant in association with said water soluble polymer;
5 wherein said water soluble polymer, said surfactant, and said association provide
6 said water- based drilling fluid with effective rheology and fluid loss
7 control properties comprising low shear viscosity.

1 392. (New) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:
2 an aqueous base fluid;
3 a quantity of about 2 lb/bbl. or more of water soluble polymer; and,
4 an amount of surfactant in association with said water soluble polymer;
5 wherein said quantity, said amount, and said association provide said water
6 soluble polymer with effective rheology and fluid loss control properties
7 comprising low shear rate viscosity.

1 393. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 wherein said low-shear
2 rate viscosity comprises about 70,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

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1 394. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 wherein said low shear
2 rate viscosity comprises about 100,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1 395. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 further comprising a
2 concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity
3 being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.

1 396. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 393 further comprising a
2 concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity
3 being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.

1 397. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 wherein said fluid
2 consists essentially of additives other than a solid bridging agent.

1 398. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 396 wherein said fluid
2 consists essentially of additives other than a solid bridging agent.

1 399. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 wherein said water-
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1 400. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 396 wherein said water-
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1 401. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 398 wherein said water-
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1 402. (New) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:

2 an-aqueous-base fluid;

3 a quantity of about 2 lb/bbl. or more of water soluble polymer;

4 an amount of surfactant in association with said water soluble polymer;

5 wherein said quantity, said amount, and said association provide said water- based

6 drilling fluid effective rheology and fluid loss control properties

7 comprising low shear rate viscosity; and

8 a concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said

9 surfactant being effective to emulsify said water emulsifiable material and

10 to produce emulsion droplets having an average diameter of about 30

11 microns or less.

1 403. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 402 wherein said low shear
2 rate viscosity comprises about 70,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1 404. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 402 wherein said low shear
2 rate viscosity comprises about 100,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1 405. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 402 further comprising a
2 concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity
3 being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.

1 406. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 403 further comprising a
2 concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity
3 being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.

1 407. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 404 further comprising a
2 concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity
3 being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.

1 408. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 402 wherein said fluid
2 consists essentially of additives other than a solid bridging agent.

1 409. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 407 wherein said fluid
2 consists essentially of additives other than a solid bridging agent.

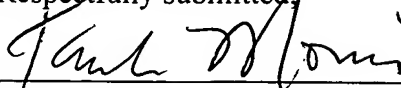
1 410. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 401 wherein said water-
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1 411. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 407 wherein said water-
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1 412. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 409 wherein said water-
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this
response, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 maintained by
Baker Hughes Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula Morris", written over a horizontal line.

Paula Morris

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